



**Stiftung gegen
Rassismus und
Antisemitismus**

Fondation contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme
Fondazione contro il razzismo e l'antisemitismo
Foundation against racism and antisemitism

A Portrait

Public Relations

Politics

Education and Training

Legal Issues

**Fight against racism, xenophobia and
antisemitism. Commitment to preserving
human rights and democracy**

Brief Description of the Foundation

The goals of the Foundation against racism and antisemitism are to prevent and fight discrimination and violence, as well as racism and antisemitism.

Foundation Goals

The Foundation against racism and antisemitism (GRA) is dedicated to preserving human rights and Swiss-style democracy.

The GRA promotes tolerance and condemns all types of discrimination.

Purpose of the Foundation

The Foundation is dedicated to fighting all forms of discrimination and, in particular, antisemitism.

The purpose of the foundation comes from the support of individuals and institutions that are committed to promoting tolerance and understanding toward minorities that have a historical connection to Switzerland.

The Foundation against racism and antisemitism is a foundation registered in Zurich as defined by Art. 88 (et seq) of the Swiss Civil Code.

Areas of Activity

The Foundation is involved in a wide spectrum of activities, which range from public relations work to striving to make a difference in the areas of education, training, politics and legal issues.

Public Relations

We focus on actively fighting against discrimination and promoting public awareness of tolerance, human rights and living together peacefully.

Awarding Prizes

● Fischhof Prize

The late Ms. Nanny Fischhof-Barth (1901–1997) made a generous donation to the GRA. She did this in memory of her deceased husband, Erich Fischhof, who came to Switzerland as a Jewish refugee; but also in memory of her sister who was killed by the Nazis. The Swiss authorities denied her sister's return to her hometown of Zurich because she had lost her Swiss citizenship by marrying a foreigner.

As part of a festive event, the Fischhof Prize of 50,000 CHF is awarded every two years to individuals or institutions that have made outstanding contributions to the fight against racism in general and antisemitism in particular in Switzerland.

Previous award winners are (as of 2007):

Human rights activist, Honorary Dr. Anni Lanz and Dr. Georg Kreis, President of the Swiss Commission against Racism (10/2007), FIFA President, Joseph S. Blatter and National Councilor Paul Rechsteiner (2005), Swiss Federal Council member Kaspar Villiger (2003), Mayor Josef Estermann and Dr. Rolf Bloch (2001), member of the Swiss Federal Council, politician Flavio Cotti (1999), member of the Swiss National Assembly Cécile Bühlmann and National Assembly member Dr. Lili Nabholz-Haidegger (1997), National Assembly member Rosmarie Dormann and author Peter Hirsch-Surava (1995), National Councilor Verena Grendelmeier and author Jürg Frischknecht (1994), author and Honorary Dr. Alfred A. Häslar and film maker Rolf Lyssy (1992).

● GRA Media Prize

The media prize of 10,000 CHF is awarded at irregular intervals to courageous individuals in the media who make lasting contributions that are consistent with the goals of the GRA.

Previous award winners are (as of 2007):

Hans Stutz (2005), Dr. Regula Heusser-Markun and Hans-Peter Meng (1994), Dr. Klara Obermüller (1992).

Media Relations

Statements in the press, on the radio and on television

Articles and interviews on current topics which are in accordance with the goals of the GRA, as well as compilations of media reports on the issues the GRA is involved in.

Press releases on incidents involving racism, a selection of current topic and summaries from the media are sent to interested institutions and to the Parliamentary Group against Racism and Xenophobia.

● Campaigns and events against racism and antisemitism



- 1 «Gemeinsam gegen Gewalt» («Fighting violence together»), award-winning TV advert in Switzerland and in international competitions, campaign continued with advertising in cinemas, posters and newspaper advertisements (2001–2003)
- 2 «Spot it! Stop it!» Swiss youth competition against discrimination as part of the European campaign «all different, all equal» (2007-2008)
- 3 «Gemeinsam gegen Diskriminierung im Alltag» («Fighting Discrimination together») (2005-2006)
- 4 Gegen Rassismus und Antisemitismus, (Fighting Racism and antisemitism), high-visible campaign with posters and newspaper advertisements (2003)
- 5 Filmmacht gegen Rassismus (Movie Night against racism)

Education and Training

The main focus of the GRA's educational work is to impart basic values and promote respect and tolerance amongst young people.

We achieve our goals in the following ways:

- Presentations and round table talks in schools, private and public institutions, political and non-profit making organizations
- Public discussions on promoting democracy and tolerance, or on fighting racism and antisemitism
- Conferences on various topics relating to violence, discrimination, racism and antisemitism
- Study trips for students and/or educators to Poland to visit Auschwitz and Krakow. (Guided trips are organized and financed in collaboration with other institutions and schools.)

● **Sigi-Feigel Visiting Professorship at the University of Zürich**

Along with the Society of Minorities in Switzerland (Gesellschaft Minderheiten in der Schweiz, GMS), the GRA supports the establishment of the Sigi-Feigel Visiting Professorship Program at the University of Zurich.

We work with organizations and institutions that are actively involved in youth training and awareness training.

- Foundation for Tolerance Education (Stiftung Erziehung zur Toleranz, SET) (founded by the GRA in 1996) **set-toleranz.ch**
- NCBI Switzerland: Organization for the Education and Sensitization of School Children **ncbi.ch**
- Foundation for Church and Judaism (Stiftung für Kirche und Judentum, SKJ) **zuercher-lehrhaus.ch**
- Archive for Jewish Contemporary History at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (Archiv für jüdische Zeitgeschichte ETH Zürich) **afz.ethz.ch**

Politics

One of the main tasks of the GRA is to develop awareness of racism by sharing information and conducting analyses on political and governmental levels, as well as through the media.

The GRA is committed to supporting the fight against all types of racism and antisemitism throughout Switzerland with the aid of democratic, political and media resources. The costs for monitoring, publishing and fighting incidents involving racism are largely covered by the GRA.

The GRA, therefore, maintains political contacts, both on the national and cantonal levels. A regular exchange with the authorities responsible for these areas is also maintained.

● **Safeguarding legal sanctions against acts of racism**

One of the key political and public concerns of the GRA is ensuring that legal sanction for acts of racism – the Penal Code Art. 261bis - is maintained and enforced in a consistent manner. The Foundation works with the following institutions to achieve this goal:

● **Parliamentary Group against Racism and Xenophobia**

The GRA supported the founding of the Parliamentary Group against Racism and Xenophobia. This parliamentary group is made up of a large number of active members of the Swiss National Assembly, the Federal Council, and State Councilors.

● **Close partnership with the Society of Minorities in Switzerland (Gesellschaft Minderheiten in der Schweiz, GMS)**

The GMS acts on behalf of minorities, those who are historically linked to Switzerland and those who are only temporarily residing in Switzerland as a result of political processes and persecution.

The GMS also dedicates itself to human rights work.

gms-minderheiten.ch

Legal Issues

The GRA works to ensure that legal sanctions for acts of racism are maintained and enforced in a consistent manner

Publications and Guidebooks

The main work of the Foundation consists of publications, speeches by experts, monitoring and commenting on legally relevant incidents, and developments both for legal practitioners and for legal laymen. The foundation does not, however, offer advisory services for individuals. Individuals in need of such services are referred to attorneys and other appropriate.

● Publication of the chronology «Racism in Switzerland»

A two-part almanac in German and French with all publicly known incidents, including an analysis of the main causes of racist events.



The bilingual chronology is sent each year to 17 000 individuals and institutions involved in the areas of politics, economics, media and religion, to the executives of the Federal Government and cantons and their parliaments, as well as to school administrators throughout Switzerland. Regular updates can be found at gra.ch

● Publication of the reference book «Rassendiskriminierung ein Kommentar zu Art 261bis StGB und Art. 171c MStG» («Race Discrimination – a Discussion of Art. 261bis to Penal Code and Art. 171c MStG»)

by Marcel A. Niggli, Professor at the University of Freiburg

A second, totally revised edition (2007) with special consideration of its application and practical use in the courtroom has been published in German by the Schulthess Polygraphischer Verlag.

● Supporting the online handbook of humanrights.ch/MERS advising victims of racial discrimination

This handbook covers, among other things, the areas of labor law and law of tenancy; as well as discrimination in recreational activities and during naturalization proceedings.

Financing

The Foundation depends on regular as well as project-related support.

Support and Sponsoring

Many projects are made possible by the dedication of individuals, companies and organizations that support the activities of the Foundation with very generous financial donations, and/or donations of services and products.

At this point, we would like to express our most sincere gratitude to all those who support us in more ways than one, including those not individually listed here as sponsors.

The GRA foundation is financed by:

- Annual contributions of the members of the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Committee
- Regular donations from foundations and individuals
- Support from public agencies
- Support from businesses
- Donations, bequests and charitable gifts that can be given for a special purpose

Board of Trustees

Transparency, denominational and political neutrality, as well as balance and a readiness to engage in dialog are very important issues for the members of the foundation's Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee.

Organization

All members of the Board of Trustees work in an honorary capacity.

Professional employees run the business office.

The GRA Foundation uses its resources for one-time and recurring projects in all of its fields of activity.

The Foundation consists of a Board of Trustees currently made up of seven individuals. The Board of Trustees is divided into task forces and is supported by the business office.

The Foundation's Advisory Committee provides financial and networking support. The Board of Trustees is regularly provided with information on the foundation, its projects and its financial situation.

Positioning and Controlling Bodies

The Foundation is denominationally and politically neutral. All respectable citizens who identify with the goals of the GRA and are willing to pay the annual contribution may join the foundation's advisory committee.

The Foundation is under the control of the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority in Bern.

Founders of the Foundation



Sigi Feigel, J.D., honorary doctor, (1921-2004), founder,
President of the GRA from its founding until he passed away.

Foundation President



Dr. rer. pol. Ronnie Bernheim,
President since 2004

The Business Office

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Donations Account

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Account number:
230-465623.01U,
Made payable to the Foundation against racism and antisemitism GRA,
8002 Zürich

Donations are tax deductible in many cantons.